



Spring Newsletter 2020



IN THIS ISSUE

A LETTER FROM AKUA INKS

PRINTMAKERS IN PLACE

Susan Rostow

Talleen Hacikyan

PD Packard

WORKSHOPS & DEMOS

Register for Newsletter

Dear Akua Artists,

There is no mistaking the challenges of this moment. At Akua/Speedball, we have had to adjust like everyone. Akua is connecting with printmakers to find out how they are managing isolation. With the great expense of equipment and facilities, printmakers are used to sharing space at community printshops and art centers. It is in their nature to share ideas, techniques and materials.

In our “Printmakers in Place”, segment, we will take a glimpse into the studio and lives of printmakers, Susan Rostow, PD Packard and Talleen Hacikyan to see how they are coping during these challenging times.

Hopefully, we can all take this opportunity to evolve and come out of this experience wiser and more human than we went into it, and get back to doing what we love.

If you have any questions or are looking to bounce ideas, please do not hesitate to reach out to us - we are here for you.

Warmly,
Akua Inks

PRINTMAKERS IN PLACE

SUSAN ROSTOW



Susan Rostow, paper sculptures, linocuts printed with Akua Intaglio® inks on Arnhem 1618® paper, hand painted with Akua Liquid Pigments® and Akua Carborundum Gel®, 4 to 6 inches, May 2020

Susan Rostow

I feel very fortunate to have a print studio in the same building where I live in Brooklyn, NY. My studio has always been the kind of place where I maintained a perfect balance between working alone and having printmakers around taking workshops and visiting from all over the world.

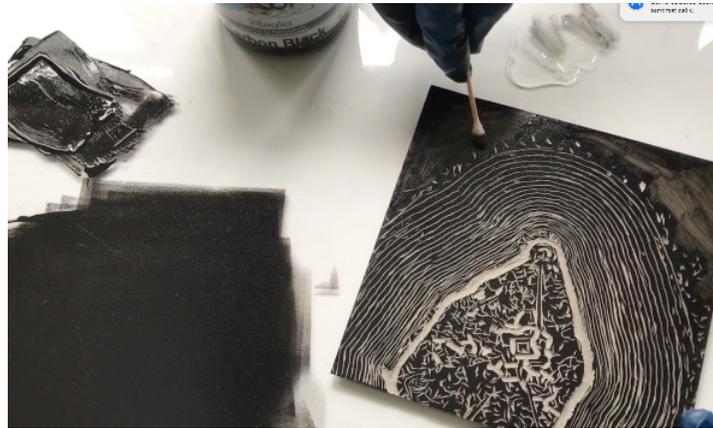
Before shelter in place and social distancing, I was working very ambitiously on large scale, printed sculptures in preparation for a solo exhibition in August 2020 at Atlantic Gallery in Chelsea, NYC. On the first day of lock down, I felt completely incapable of continuing to work on those pieces. I was overwhelmed by their large scale and the intricate printmaking processes they demanded. My mood, energy level and emotions were so different than when I first began this body of work, I wondered how I could continue to pick up where I left off. In addition, the fear of isolation, from not being able to be with other printmakers in the studio left me feeling paralyzed.

After days of contemplating how to proceed with my work I realized I needed to start new works which would be less demanding on my physical, mental and visual energy. By allowing myself to take a more playful, small scale approach, I could slowly progress to returning to more ambitious works later. After cutting a small linoleum block and printing it by hand, I was inspired to make small sculptures and wall reliefs. After easing my way back by working small, I am now getting my mojo back and starting to tackle large scale pieces once again. At this time, I can only dream about a future where my studio is filled with printmakers and we are together again attending workshops, conferences and fairs.

Susan Rostow is a New York City-based artist, working mainly with printmaking and sculpture. In addition to Rostow's active career as an artist, she is an innovative inventor of art materials and has made a major contribution to the printmaking community worldwide by creating Akua inks.

See more of her work at [SusanRostow.com](https://www.susanrostow.com)

WATCH WORK IN PROGRESS VIDEOS



Linocut Monoprint



Linocut Wall Relief



Monotype with Needle Applicators

TALLEEN HACIKYAN



Talleen Hacikyan; "Connecting;" Artist's book, Acrylic Paint, collage; 5 x 7 inches, 2020

Talleen Hacikyan

Just before the pandemic lockdown was enforced in Montreal, I was busy with art-related activities. At Atelier Circulaire, I was printing a series of monotypes for an upcoming solo exhibition and I was teaching an Akua Drypoint Monotype class. I had several workshops lined up at high schools, a bookstore, and my private studio. And then, the world stopped.

Like everyone else, I adapted. My first reaction was to create the **10-DAY ART CURE**, an online artist's book project to give homebound people a creative outlet. The project is for all ages and is geared to all levels of artistic ability. The **10-DAY ART CURE** calls for basic materials that many people have at home. It incorporates techniques such as painting, collage, frottage, stamping, styrofoam printing, scratch board, and writing.

After the frenzied energy of designing this project, I settled into a calmer lockdown routine. I devoted my days to a writing project. I relished in the luxury of long days without outside obligations. Daily walks, online workouts and watching documentaries with my husband at night, helped to spice up the long hours at the keyboard. I finished the marathon manuscript that I had been working on for two years. I never thought I'd finish. But I did. It is hard to imagine the end of the pandemic, but one must picture it and believe in it. In the meantime, I am one of the lucky ones, an artist who always finds something creative to do.

Talleen Hacikyan is a printmaker, illustrator, art educator and writer. She has exhibited widely in Canada and internationally in over 80 juried solo and group shows. Awards include: Speedball Purchase Award (2015), Gelette Burgess Award (2013), Pratt and Whitney Canada Prix Pierre Henry (1993), Loto-Quebec Printmaking prize (1991). Talleen has been an Akua Demo Artist since 2015. She has given printmaking workshops in Canada, the United States, Mexico, Spain, and Portugal. She lives in Montreal.

See more of her work at talleen.weebly.com

See her project at: [10-DAY ART CURE](#)

PD PACKARD



PD Packard; "Armour Clad in LOVE;" Relief on kozo paper, & laser cut plexi printing plates 72 x 50 inches, assembled, April 2020

PD Packard

In my home in Brooklyn, NY, I work isolated in my studio on the garden floor. Before the NYC quarantine, my family would leave the house by 8 am each weekday morning. From inside my studio one could hear the typical street noises that I've learned to tune out; cars honking, people talking, arguments ensuing, gun shots, planes flying overhead, police sirens, fire trucks and much more. Although the streets have become almost completely silent, my house has become incredibly chaotic with all my family working or studying at home on separate projects, talking via zoom to clients, eating, and walking around all at separate times.

To have a moment to think anew, I've been taking early morning walks through the nearby Prospect Park. I've been collecting tree parts to use as content for the animated video vignettes I make. I use printmaking in combination with Nature to create visual poetry that shares my thirst for color, nature, and unconditional LOVE, not conditional romance. Using skills from my years designing in the fashion industry, I've created a suit from my prints to represent the idea of our earth, and all of humanity as being armour clad, and protected by LOVE. To view my most recent video release: equal the difference: universal LOVE, link to: <https://vimeo.com/401703432>.

PD Packard is a multi-media artist living in Brooklyn, New York. Awarded a scholarship to Central St Martins, in London, England she obtained a BFA degree in Fashion and Textile Design. Her work has been exhibited throughout the United States and internationally.

Learn more about PD's printing technique on the Akua YouTube channel video, [Printing Decorative Papers with PD Packard](#)

See more of her work at www.pdpackardLOVEmore.com

ONLINE WORKSHOPS AND TUTORIALS



Encaustic Collagraph print by Elise Wagner



Akua Demo Artist Joyce Silverstone

Get inspired by a series of online workshops and tutorials as printmaking instructors and printshops are offering virtual learning!

[Zea Mays Printshop](#)

[Printmaker and Artist Elise Wagner](#)

[Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop](#)

[Click here for our Upcoming Workshops and Demos Directory](#)